

*Oct 06 2023 8:30 am*

**City of Fitchburg  
Agricultural Commission**

REGULAR MEETING

August 1, 2023, 6:30pm, at the City Hall East Meeting Room

**MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Jen Barlow, Evan Halstead, Ingrid Wheeler, James Momanyi, Yonna Coon

Advisor: Janet Morrison

AGENDA ITEMS

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting Opened by Evan Halstead at 6:32pm. Roll call was conducted.

**2. Approve previous meeting minutes**

Jen Barlow motioned to approve the minutes of June 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 regular meeting (Evan Halstead 2<sup>nd</sup>.) Vote to approve: 5-0

**3. Fundraising for Agricultural Preservation Fund**

Discussion of possible funding sources:

1. Jen introduced CHNA 9 (Community Health Network Area, a program established by the State DPH) as a possibility for a micro-grant.
2. Cannabis business: Evan mentioned local cannabis companies, who are obligated to offer support locally. Janet noted that Ethos helps with park cleanups and trail maintenance. Janet also suggested contacting Fitchburg Redevelopment Authority for more information. Jen suggested researching the Host Community Agreements of the different companies.
3. Big Retailers: Evan suggested approaching local businesses, like Home Depot, Harbor Freight, and Walmart for in-kind donations. The City says we can use their EIN.
4. Garden Business: Ingrid Wheeler suggested asking the Gardener's Spot.
5. Banks: Janet suggested local banks like Workers Credit Union, which makes charitable donations and Ingrid suggested local community banks.

We discussed establishing a fundraising subcommittee which can pursue these ideas.

New Business: Ingrid noted that the Fitchburg Farmers Market will be continuing indoors in the fall and we can set up a table to publicize the work of the Commission.

#### **4. Executive Session**

*Motion* by Evan Halstead to enter into Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meeting Law to consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease, or value of real property if such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body. Not to return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session. (Jennifer Barlow 2<sup>nd</sup>). Vote: 5-0

**Public Meeting is closed.**